

Headlines Himalaya

Sep 03 – Sep 09 (2018)

No. 521

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For the 521st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 32 news from 16 sources and selected 29 happenings from five countries. In far western Nepal, locals work together for securing the future of endangered Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). Aquaculture has been proving a boon to the farmers in western Nepal. Researchers in north eastern India, for the first time discovered a rare spider genus *Hyllus diardi* (Walckenaer 1837). College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara in Assam established the state's first inpatient unit for veterinary treatment. Polio virus detected for the first time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

NEPAL

Animal parts seized from traders
Tea on demand
Continuous rainfall disrupts electricity supply
Efforts to conserve dolphins
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Red panda conservation in schools
Translocated wild buffaloes gave birth
Benefit from commercial fish farming

INDIA

Increase in green cover
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Irregular supply of gas affects tea industry
Radio frequency tagging for stray animals
Lack of transparency destroys trees
Investigation on death of tigers
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Reduced capacity to retain water
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Elusive Snow Leopard spotted
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Establishment of Inpatient Unit

CHINA

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Shrunken glaciers on the Tibetan plateau

BHUTAN

Potatoes get better price
Chip budding to improve fruit bearing

PAKISTAN

Spread of dengue
Child tested positive for polio

ANIMAL PARTS SEIZED FROM TRADERS

Many people are being often arrested in case of illegal wildlife trade in Nepal. Recently, two people from Solukhumbu district, eastern Nepal have been arrested along with five red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Kathmandu, central Nepal. Two people were caught while exporting the canines of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) to China in Rasuwa district, north central Nepal. Another smuggler was also caught with a set of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) skin in Dailekh district, far-western Nepal. According to the Police, wildlife parts are usually smuggled to China. In the absence of advanced technology, Nepal Police has made the monitoring rigorous in Nepal-China northern border.

Sep 4 & 9

<https://bit.ly/2OpOjnl>

<https://bit.ly/2zK9Z5y>

<https://bit.ly/2lvdyQ3>

TEA ON DEMAND

Orthodox tea has been recognized as excellent international quality standard and is on high demand since a decade. Total of 60 percent of the orthodox tea produced in Dhankuta, eastern Nepal has been exported to India. Countries like Germany, Japan, America, Poland and China have been importing this tea. The quality of tea produced has been attributed to pesticide free production culture.

Sep 5

<https://bit.ly/2OwM7uo>

CONTINUOUS RAINFALL DISRUPTS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Due to continuous rainfall and landslide, the canal of Jairigad Micro-hydropower has been damaged in Dunai, headquarter of Dolpa district, far-western Nepal at two sites. This has disturbed the electricity supply in district headquarter, Dunai. Local radio and FM stations are highly affected due to blockage of electricity supply.

Sep 5

<https://bit.ly/2QmUVQR>

EFFORTS TO CONSERVE DOLPHINS

Local government bodies have been actively involved in endangered Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) conservation through promotional events in Kailali district, far-western Nepal. These fresh water dolphins can be seen in Karnali, Mohana, Kada, Kandra and Pathraiya rivers, which locals were unaware of. Locals have taken a lead in conserving dolphins in the area and developing tourism.

Sep 6

<https://bit.ly/2DOtDBz>

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTED BEFORE DATE

The construction of a concrete bridge over Marin River, Sindhuli district, central Nepal has been completed before allocated time period. The bridge was inaugurated by former Prime Minister and was overwhelmed by the work of the contractor company. The construction work was initiated in 2073 B.S. worth NPR 49,14,20,000. According to the locals, 8-10 people used to die yearly while trying to cross the river.

Sep 6

<https://bit.ly/2OyvE90>

RED PANDA CONSERVATION IN SCHOOLS

With the aim of conserving red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), conservation education has been included in school curriculum in different parts of Ilam district, eastern Nepal. Environment conservation education, which mainly focuses on red panda conservation, has been designed for grade 6 and 7 with the effort of the Mountain Institute and financial support of Red Panda Network (RPN), Kathmandu, central Nepal. According to the RPN, the district harbours 30-35 red pandas but due to lack of awareness and threat from hunting by stray dogs, this species is in grave danger.

Sep 7

<https://bit.ly/2DW21e2>

TRANSLOCATED WILD BUFFALOES GAVE BIRTH

Three translocated wild buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*) brought from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), south eastern Nepal and Central Zoo, central Nepal have given birth. The birth of calves has been marked as a huge achievement in the conservation of this species according to the Chief Conservation Officer of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Sep 9

<https://bit.ly/2DMV7aC>

BENEFIT FROM COMMERCIAL FISH FARMING

Farmers are earning NPR 60 lakhs per year from fish (Pisces) farming in Modi rural municipality, Parbat district, western Nepal. The demand of trout fish (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) has been increasing these days as they are boneless, tasty and nutritious. According to fish farmers in Modi rural municipality, due to high demand of fishes from Pokhara, Kaski district, western Nepal, live fishes are being delivered.

Sep 9

<https://bit.ly/2P4w8kn>

India-Himalaya

INCREASE IN GREEN COVER

The initiatives of Himachal government, northern India in increasing green cover and environmental conservation have proved to be successful as the forest area in the state has increased by one percent than the previous year. The state government has ensured the participation of youths and women in forestry activities and benefit sharing with them. The roles of Joint Forest Management and Public Forest Management Committees have been vital in increasing forest area in the state by plantation of maximum plants.

Sep 03

<https://bit.ly/2zLn66O>

ERRATIC RAINFALL IN THE NORTHEAST

According to Meteorological department, the rainfall in the eight hilly states of northeast has decreased by 27 percent. The highest rainfall deficit is in Arunachal Pradesh by 35 percent and that in Assam by 29 percent. Meanwhile persistent rainfall for more than a month in Nagaland, north eastern India has claimed 12 lives while 3000 families have been displaced due to floods and landslides. Properties including agricultural land have been damaged and roads in 359 locations have been totally cut off. According to the government, it will need more than USD 101 million to restore the damage caused by rainfall and related incidents.

Sep 03

<https://bit.ly/2P4SRgm>

<https://bit.ly/2xRK3Um>

IRREGULAR SUPPLY OF GAS AFFECTS TEA INDUSTRY

The manufacture of tea (*Camellia sinensis*) in tea industries of upper Assam, north eastern India has been disturbed since past few months due to irregular supply of gas to the factories. This has led to deployment of temporary workers for uncertainty and decrease in the sale of green leaves as industries have stopped to buy it. The disruption in the supply of gas is due to the increasing number of tea factories while supply has remained constant. Assam Branch of India Tea Association (ABITA) has discussed the problem with the Chief Minister (CM) and with the intervention of CM they hope for end of crisis.

Sep 04

<https://bit.ly/2RjaMS2>

RADIO FREQUENCY TAGGING FOR STRAY ANIMALS

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Jammu in northern India under the order of Jammu and Kashmir High court has started Radio Frequency Identification Tagging for stray animals and dairy cattle. JMC targets to tag 300 to 400 stray animals of city. With this, it is expected to ease the management of the stray animals on roads and control the traffic and accidents. This system would also help to keep records of vaccination and medicines given to the animals along with its prevention from their smuggling.

Sep 05

<https://bit.ly/2DOtXQN>

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY DESTROYS TREES

As many as 15, 000 trees have been axed and uprooted for the project of laying 440 KV transmission line from Samba to Amargrah in Baramulla-Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. Out of the cut trees, sources said that many felled trees are missing. According to the locals, due to lack of transparency, more trees have been cut than required for the project. The locals and a Social and Right to Information (RTI) Activist have urged for a high level inquiry from the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

Sep 05

<https://bit.ly/2Ng5Utq>

INVESTIGATION ON DEATH OF TIGERS

A CBI team has been ordered to investigate the death of tigers (*Panthera tigris*) at the Corbett Tiger reserve-Uttarakhand, northern India over the past five years by the Uttarakhand High Court. Court has also ordered the team to investigate the involvement of forest officials in the tiger poaching. 40 tigers and 272 leopards (*Panthera pardus*) have died in the state in the period of two and half years.

Sep 06

<https://bit.ly/2NZkOcU>

TRANSACTION POINT OF POACHERS REVEALED

Police and security agencies have found out that Dimapur in Nagaland district, north eastern India is the first point of financial transaction in transportation of rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) horns to be sold in China via Myanmar. For a kilogram of rhino horn, poachers can earn about USD 90 thousand due to which they do not hesitate to kill rhinos. Poachers offer handsome amount of money to villagers near National Park who know the routes inside the park to guide them to enter the park.

Sep 06

<https://bit.ly/2RbT9Dz>

REDUCED CAPACITY TO RETAIN WATER

Human encroachments and siltation of the water bodies of Kashmir, northern India has been reducing their capacity to retain water over the years which has made the state more vulnerable to the flood hazards. Total of 13 districts of Jammu and Kashmir have been identified as "Multi-Hazard Districts". Major areas of the state are prone to floods even at the times of moderate rainfall.

Sep 07

<http://www.earlytimes.in/m/newsdet.aspx?q=241834>

FINANCIAL AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

As many as 1000 families of Mebo subdivision along river bank in Siang in Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India have been displaced by Siang river flood. The Arunachal Pradesh Disaster Management Department has approved financial aid of USD 20,771.31 for each of the victims who lost their houses. Concerned authorities have been ordered to assess agriculture land and crop damage caused by erosion.

Sep 07

<https://bit.ly/2y98HyW>

ELUSIVE SNOW LEOPARD SPOTTED

Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has been spotted in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, northern India. The footage of Snow leopard was captured by a camera trap in the remote area of Lippa –Asra Wildlife Sanctuary at a height of around 4000 meters. The camera traps were installed by state wildlife department signifying an increase in the population of the species. Other camera traps also captured two brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) at the altitude of about 3200 meters.

Sep 08

<https://bit.ly/2NVfsiF>

DISCOVERY OF JUMPING SPIDER

A team of researchers have discovered a rare spider genus *Hyllus diardi* (Walckenaer 1837) which is known as jumping spider, for the first time in India in Kokrajhar district in Assam, north eastern India. Presence of distinctive two chambered spermatheca in female genitalia is its unique feature. The jumping spider was discovered from Chirang Reserve Forest during a nocturnal survey.

Sep 08

<https://bit.ly/2zLoean>

SCRUB TYPHUS OUTBREAK

As many as 43 cases of scrub typhus (*Orientia tsutsugamushi*) have been reported from the Mandi district-Himachal Pradesh, northern India. Mandi Zonal Hospital which was struggling hard to treat dengue patients has failed to provide timely treatment to scrub typhus patients due to lack of screening facility and test kits to detect the virus. As per Mandi Chief Medical Officer an arrangement for screening of the diseases and necessary treatments are on the process. He also pledged to maintain cleanliness and urged to eat fresh food only to check the spread of the disease.

Sep 08

<https://bit.ly/2NU7Ahw>

REDD+ WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED

With an aim of sharing knowledge and information related for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Himalayas Project, a secretariat of the REDD+ Working Group has been established at the Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI) at Sotai-Assam, north eastern India on Thursday. The establishment of REDD+ Working Group is expected to initiate and scale up REDD+ action in the north eastern states. The main focus of the project is capacity building, training and implementation of REDD+ action.

Sep 09

<https://bit.ly/2y3EmC5>

ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT UNIT

For the first time in Assam, north eastern India, an inpatient unit for veterinary treatment has been setup at the College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara. The unit has the capacity to keep 18 large animals, 12 medium-sized animals and around 30 pet animals at time. The centre which has adopted the public-private-partnership mode can provide all kinds of services to animals including long term treatments of animals.

Sep 09

<https://bit.ly/2RcTUvY>

China Himalaya

DECLINED POVERTY THROUGH PLANTATION

Derong County in Sichuan, south western China has become a “world-renowned plateau winery” owing to grape (*Vitis* spp.) production from orchards and the construction of wineries in the county. The wine industry has proved to be beneficial to generate money for local farmers and marketing enterprises as well. Derong County produces 734 tons of grapes worth USD 7.3 million that adds USD 243.91 in income of every resident in grape production area.

Sep 04

<https://bit.ly/2P1q9N9>

FIRST RECRUITMENT FAIR

Tibetan Traditional Medical College (TTMC) in Tibet, south western China held its first recruitment fair for medical graduates providing 200 jobs by 23 enterprises. Owing to its unique value, Tibetan medicine industry has been progressing in recent years. Tibetan medicine is not only medical or cultural resource but economic resource as well.

Sep 05

<https://bit.ly/2NXMezW>

SHRUNKEN GLACIERS ON THE TIBETAN PLATEAU

Increasing temperature on Qinghai-Tibet plateau, south western China which is twice the global average rise due to which glaciers on the plateau have shrunk by 15 percent while permafrost has shrunk by 16 percent in the past half a century. The rise in temperature has increased the volume of water sources resulting in more disasters, including glacier collapses.

Sep 07

<https://bit.ly/2QoD7EV>

Bhutan-Himalaya

POTATOES GET BETTER PRICE

Farmers of eastern Bhutan are satisfied after their potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) fetched better price this year at auction yard in Samdrup Jongkhar, south eastern Bhutan. With the production of double quantity than last year, potatoes worth USD 0.55 have been auctioned this year. Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL) has been planning to enhance storage for potatoes as there is rush at the auction yard in the beginning of the season.

Sep 03

<https://bit.ly/2zLnkuG>

CHIP BUDDING TO IMPROVE FRUIT BEARING

Farmers of Trashiyangtse, eastern Bhutan who grow hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana*) as an alternative cash crop were left disappointed with the trees not bearing fruits until they knew about summer chip budding. According to the Research and Development Officer of Mountain Hazelnut Venture Private Limited, chip budding which is joining of buds from a male tree with that of female tree enhances pollination and improves fruit bearing ability. After chip budding, the annual harvests of hazelnuts have increased by 10 times than previous year.

Sep 07

<https://bit.ly/2Nf7n3m>

Pakistan- Himalaya

SPREAD OF DENGUE

Total 36 cases of dengue (Flavivirus) have been reported from different areas of Peshawar-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. To control the further spread of the disease, dengue awareness campaign, eradication of dengue larva and cleanliness program has been conducted in affected areas. District governor has also urged to take other necessary steps against dengue utilizing available resources.

Sep 03

<https://bit.ly/2zKmG0d>

CHILD TESTED POSITIVE FOR POLIO

An 18 months old child of Charsadda district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has been diagnosed with polio virus (*Enterovirus C*) on Wednesday. This is the first polio case of the year for the province. The boy is out of danger of any physical deformities as he was administered the anti-polio vaccine earlier.

Sep 05

<https://bit.ly/2Ose06Z>